IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) An isolated antibody[[,]] or an isolated antibody fragment~~, or a synthetic construct~~ thereof which is specific for ~~capable of~~ binding to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 or a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 wherein ~~the~~ Thr residue number 130 and ~~the~~ Gly residue number 358 shown in SEQ ID NO:9 are replaced by Ile and Asp residues, respectively.

23. (new) The antibody according to claim 22 which is specific for binding to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9.

24. (new) The antibody according to claim 23 which is a monoclonal antibody.

25. (new) The antibody according to claim 24 which is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

26. (new) The antibody according to claim 22 which is specific for binding to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 wherein Thr residue number 130 and Gly residue number 358 shown in SEQ ID NO:9 are replaced by Ile and Asp residues, respectively.

27. (new) The antibody according to claim 26 which is a monoclonal antibody.

28. (new) The antibody according to claim 27 which is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

29. (new) The antibody fragment according to claim 22 which is specific for binding to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9.

30. (new) The antibody fragment according to claim 29 which is an Fab, $F(ab')_2$, or Fv fragment.

31. (new) The antibody fragment according to claim 22 which is specific for binding to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 wherein Thr residue number 130 and Gly residue number 358 shown in SEQ ID NO:9 are replaced by Ile and Asp residues, respectively.

32. (new) The antibody fragment according to claim 31 which is an Fab, $F(ab')_2$, or Fv fragment.

33. (new) The antibody according to claim 22 which is further comprised of a label or a pharmaceutically active agent.

34. (new) The antibody fragment according to claim 22 which is further comprised of a label or a pharmaceutically active agent.

35. (new) An isolated single chain Fv (scFv) molecule which is specific for binding to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 or a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 wherein Thr residue number 130 and Gly residue number 358 shown in SEQ ID NO:9 are replaced by Ile and Asp residues, respectively.

36. (new) The scFv molecule according to claim 35 which is specific for binding to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9.

37. (new) The scFv molecule according to claim 35 which is specific for binding to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 wherein Thr residue number 130 and Gly residue number 358 shown in SEQ ID NO:9 are replaced by Ile and Asp residues, respectively.

38. (new) A method of raising antibodies, which method comprises administration of a soluble polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 to an animal host to stimulate production of antibodies.

39. (new) The method according to claim 38 which further comprises administration of an adjuvant together with the soluble polypeptide.

40. (new) A method of selecting antibodies, which method comprises administration of a soluble polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 to an animal host and selection of antibodies by specific binding to the soluble polypeptide.

41. (new) The method according to claim 40 which further comprises administration of an adjuvant together with the soluble polypeptide.

42. (new) A method of raising antibodies, which method comprises administration of a soluble polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 wherein Thr residue number 130 and Gly residue number 358 shown in SEQ ID NO:9 are replaced by Ile and Asp residues, respectively, to an animal host to stimulate production of antibodies.

43. (new) The method according to claim 42 which further comprises administration of an adjuvant together with the soluble polypeptide.

44. (new) A method of selecting antibodies, which method comprises administration of a soluble polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 wherein Thr residue number 130 and Gly residue number 358 shown in SEQ ID NO:9 are replaced by Ile and Asp residues, respectively, to an animal host and selection of antibodies by specific binding to the soluble polypeptide.

45. (new) The method according to claim 44 which further comprises administration of an adjuvant together with the soluble polypeptide.